CLAIMS:

1. A method for modifying fibers, comprising the steps of: applying a solution of a low substituted cellulose ether having a molar degree of substitution with alkyl and/or hydroxyalkyl groups in the range of 0.05 to 1.0 in an aqueous alkali solution to fibers, and

causing the solution borne on fibers to coagulate.

The method of claim 1 wherein the low substituted cellulose ether is selected from the group consisting of low substituted alkyl celluloses, low substituted hydroxyalkyl celluloses, and low substituted hydroxyalkyl alkyl celluloses.

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- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the aqueous alkali solution has an alkali concentration of 2 to 25% by weight.
- 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the concentration of low substituted cellulose ether in the aqueous alkaline solution is 0.5 to 15% by weight.
 - 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of causing the solution borne on fibers to coagulate includes salting-out coagulation, neutralization coagulation or a combination thereof.